THE PEOPLE'S PRESS.

VOL. XIII. SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1863. NO. 34.

PEOPLE'S PRESS.

SALEM, N. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1863.

We prepared a lengthy article upon the subject of Senator Wigfall's scheme to put in the service all men and boys, from 16 to 55, thus making the entire population subject to military law, and to create nothing short of a military despotism, but, owing to the press on our limited columns, must content ourselves with publishing the articles from the Richmond Examiner and Raleigh Progress, upon the subject, under the head of "spirit of the press."

If the people are not disposed tamely to submit, presuming they have still the right to instruct their Representatives in Congress, they should lose no time to make known their wishes to have the policy of Wigfall & Co., put down, ere it is too late. It is computed there are enough *original secessionists* within the present conscript age, now at home speculating and enjoying shoddy offices, to fill up the thinned ranks, and we hope they will be ild back contemptuously, as their services are now needed in the army.

We are glad to see at least a portion of the press speak out against any further conscription; and we hope Congress will seriously consider the matter, and not impose unjust and ruinous burdens upon the people of those localities where there are, comparatively speaking, no slaves, and where the main dependence is upon white labor to raise food for the support of the people, as for instance in Western North Carolina.

☞ In accordance with established custom, no paper will be issued from this office next week.

We tender to our readers the compliments of the season. For several years past, at this festive season, we expressed the hope of better times during the new year, and have so often been disappointed.—We will now see what virtue there is in silence.

☞ To gratify public curiosity, we publish Lincoln's Message this week. The reader will give it a careful perusal and judge for himself. It seems to us if Lincoln has the most remote idea of endeavoring to conciliate the South, he has a strange way of showing it in his message. He says his *terms of pardon* are, however, subject to modification by the power of legislation or supreme judicial decision.

SUBSTITUTE PAPERS.—We notice that Confederate officers are calling on the principals of substitutes for their original papers showing that they have put substitutes in the army.—As the Chief of the Conscript Bureau is of opinion that ten thousand fraudulent substitute papers are held in the country, we presume the object is to detect the frauds.

CONGRESS.—The committees appointed are now regularly at work, and the Richmond papers tell us that important reports are expected in a few days.

In the House of Representatives, last week, on a test vote to concur in the principle of substitutes, the House refused by a vote of 80 to 80 to concur in the principle. Messrs Arrington, Avery, Bridgers, Davidson, Kenan, Mclean and Smith, of this State, voted against conscripting principals.

The only Bill which has become a law, thus far in Congress, is that repealing the substitute law; in other words, declaring that no more substitutes in the army shall be allowed.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

There is nothing new from Northern Virginia or Northern Georgia.

Gen Lee's army is now in winter quarters and compares very comfortable. What the army mostly needs is blankets and shoes.

Gen Joseph E. Johnson has been appointed to the command of the army of Tennessee. Gen Hindman had arrived and resumed command of his old corps.

Eastern North Carolina.—The enemy has made his appearance again in force on the N. E. side of Chowan river. Some 2000 troops are said to be at Elizabeth City and 1000 at Edenton, mostly negroes.

[From a special Correspondent.]

Goldsboro', 2d N. C. Cav., Dec 18.

Editor State Journal:—Yesterday the Yankees captured 25 of our men (Moore's Company) including Capt. Moore and Lieut. Henderson. They patrolled the streets and surprised the camp. It was near Greenville and the enemy had a superior force. We had no fight, but one Yankee was killed. They were piloted by a black head traitor, and it is hoped he will pull hemp very soon.

A few days ago the Yankees ran afoul of a portion of Col. Gaither's cavalry and got soundly thrashed. Five Yankees were killed on that occasion and we had three slightly wounded. I do not know the particulars.

W. A. J.

The enemy is making some advance into Texas at several points.

Charleston.—The bombardment of Charleston continues. It is said that Beauregard intends to hold on till he starves them out.

The gunboat was lost off Charleston harbor, during a gale, on the 7th. 20 lives were lost.

AVERELL'S RAID.—Last week the Yankee General Averell, cavalry colonel, Salem, Va., 1,500 strong, and committed untold acts of depredation. They broke open the post office, cut the telegraph wire, and proceeded to the depot, breaking open trunks, destroying their contents, and set fire to the building. They also broke open many stores, destroyed the goods, burnt several barns, and destroyed a quantity of grain. They remained till about 5 o'clock in the evening when they traveled in the direction of Pulaski, leaving that place. Lee and Imboden were in pursuit of them. Many servants went off with them.

From Tennessee.—It is stated that Johnston's division attacked a force of mounted infantry, about 4000 strong, at Bean's Station on Monday, and gradually drove them back, after a stubborn resistance, with heavy loss, in the direction of Knoxville. The pursuit continued throughout Tuesday and Wednesday during which time we captured a train of 70 wagons laden with stores and clothing, and 90 prisoners. Our forces are moving in the direction of Knoxville, to which place the Yankees have fled. Our loss in killed and wounded about three hundred.

NORTHERN NEWS.

Northern papers to the 17th have been received at Richmond.

The correspondent of the Boston Herald, at Charleston harbor, says that Dahlgreen is preparing for a great movement of the ironclads. He will not leave the department until the old flag waves over Charleston or its ruins.

In the federal House of Representatives, on the 16th, Mr. Rollens, of Missouri, offered a resolution—in substance the same as the Crittenden resolutions—that the war was brought on by disunionists, but should not be prosecuted for conquest or subjugation. When obedience to the Constitution and laws are secured the war ought to stop.

Lovejoy moved to lay the resolution on the table—yeas 82, nays 114.

Washburne, of Illinois, expressed a wish to debate. The resolution was laid over.

On Tuesday, Fernando Wood submitted a resolution that the President be requested to appoint three commissioners, empowered to open negotiations with the authorities at Richmond, to the end that this bloody, destructive and inhuman war shall cease, and the Union be restored upon terms of equity, fraternity and equality under the Constitution. Washburne moved that the resolution be laid upon the table. Yeas, 78, nays 59.

A resolution was introduced instructing the committee of the judiciary to report a bill repealing the Fugitive Slave law. Laid on the table by eight majority.

Saulsbury, of Delaware, refuses to take the loyalty oath. It will likely lead to trouble in the Senate.

☞ We learn that Major A. H. Belo has been promoted to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the 50th Regiment, N. C. T. Maj. Belo was wounded at Gettysburg, but has nearly recovered, and will be able to rejoin and take command of his regiment in a few weeks.

Colonel Conally, also severely wounded at the same engagement, had who fell into the hands of the enemy, has also nearly recovered from his dangerous wounds.

☞ The Supreme Court will meet in Raleigh on the 30th inst., the General Assembly having restored the winter term.

For the Press.

The present Congress appears determined to immortalize itself, and the indications plainly show, that it will be in such a manner as not to win the regard or esteem of the Southern people. Enough has already transpired to prove, that those members who hail from States that are under Yankee dominion and whose constituents cannot possibly be affected by any act this Congress may pass, are most conspicuous in forging on the people of the still loyal States, the most unjust and oppressive laws. The fact itself, that these men are entitled to seats in our Congress as the representatives of foreign subjects is an anomaly hard to be understood, particularly when it is ascertained that many of the districts they thus informally represent, are yielding a heavy revenue with the Yankee treasury. Strange to say these are the men that are so conspicuous in calling for the last man and the last dollar! The attempt to interfere with, and nullify a contract made with substitutes in the army, has thus far signally failed, yet we were gravely told, that if the conscript age were increased, then some members of said majority would cheerfully vote to force men that had substitutes, into the army. For the life of us, we cannot comprehend how the fact of the conscript age could affect substitutes in the army. The citizens of the Southern States would never have gone into the business of procuring substitutes had not the government itself held out certain inducements to individuals to go into said measure. And now for the government itself to be the prime mover in an attempt to nullify contracts made in conformity with its own law, evinces a disposition not very creditable to the government. How can an increase in the conscript age affect a contract made three years while, with substitutes 12 or 18 months hence? No law enacted at this day, can reach back two years, and effect a contract made 18 months since. The only law they can pass on this subject is, to abolish substitutes in the future.—No one in our present emergency, will object to such a law; and our only regret is, that said law was ever enacted, as the substitute of those instead the benefit of said law were original secessionists, who were honor bound to go into the war, to settle their principles.

If the army is to be replenished, the material to effect that purpose can readily be procured, without an increase of the conscript age.—Let that law be rigidly enforced; and as we will now have an effective Home Guard, there is no further use for the many detailed conscripts that are congregated around every Court House in North Carolina. These detailed conscripts, mostly original secessionists and can readily be distinguished by the insignia of brass buttoned coats, and many colored mustaches; to these add the many military officers that can readily be met with on all the thoroughfares of the country:—Call all these men to the army, and there will be no use in increasing the conscript age.

But let us more minutely examine the bill before Congress, which proposes to increase the Conscript age. This is a sweeping conscript bill, taking all from 18 to 50 years of age.—The impossible object of this bill is to take those from 16 to 18, and from 45 to 55 years as a home reserve," to be used purely for State defence. But strange to say, it directly sets aside all States Rights doctrine by the provision "except in cases of great emergency, in the opinion of the commanding general." Look at this bold and deliberate attempt to set aside all State authority, and place this entire body of troops at the mere mercy of military authorities! Will our State authorities quietly submit to this attempt to tread under foot the last vestige of States Rights doctrine? And are the people of this State ready to be thus unceremoniously enslaved, and their wives and children placed at the mercy of a revengeful foe left behind? Is this peaceable secession? Is it this that the leaders of secession promised our boys when they begged them to volunteer "to make and show a bold front"—"that there would be no fighting"—that they the leaders "would wipe up all the blood that would flow in consequence of secession, with a pocket handkerchief. O ye deceivers, what has become of these fair promises! And where are ye now who made our boys these fair promises? Are you in the army, or are you at home skulking behind some government office and virtually belieing your secession proclivities? How dare you now stay at home, after you have plunged this once free country into the vortex of a revolution that now calls for the last man and the last dollar! And will you now stay at home under the sanction of some government office, and see the last man hurried forward into the war because of your deceptions? Are our people really quietly to submit to this most infamous outrage on their just rights? Look for a moment at the pitiful condition of things which this contemplated conscript act will bring about in Western North Carolina.

Our farmers are, generally speaking, men of small means and own no slaves. They are dependent on their own energy and the little aid the old conscript left them, for a support on their farms. Remove these farmers from their farms, and nine-tenths of the farms will be tenantless, and the many consumers throughout this vast country, which necessarily must include the families of absent soldiers, must look suffering and starvation fully in the face! If this law passes, then our wives and children may as well fold their hands, and look the gloomy future fully in the face! Is it possible that Congress can act so regardless of the welfare of Western North Carolina, and plunge the people of this entire section into misery unheard of! Had North Carolina at any time refused to furnish men and means to carry on this war, then indeed there might be some pretext for this sweeping conscript act, but as we have uniformly promptly answered every call upon us for troops, we appeal to our State authorities for protection against this law.

Suppose this bill does pass, and we send forward the last man, will we thereby establish our independence? Are we not thereby effectually preparing for subjugation? Men must eat or they cannot fight; and if there be no one left on the farms to cultivate them, then the army cannot be fed, and hence they cannot fight. If all the men already sent forward have not been able to conquer a peace, then indeed our chance to conquer a peace is a very slim one.

Finally, we hope that our patriotic Governor will see to it, that State laws enacted for our special protection as a State shall not be ruthlessly trampled under foot by Confederate authorities.

Z.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

The report of the Postmaster General shows that the returns of the department from the sales of stamps and postage on letters has been over three millions of dollars, on newspapers one hundred and eighty eight thousand; the amount paid to contractors for carrying the mails over three hundred and fifty two thousand, paid to railroads four hundred and sixty thousand. The whole number of dead letters containing valuables three thousand seven hundred and twenty five; containing money and checks more than seven hundred thousand, of these nearly three thousand, have been returned to the writers while some seven hundred containing over fifteen thousand dollars, no owners have been found for. The number of letters dropped into the postoffice without postage and sent to the dead letter office, thirty-one thousand.

GENS JOHNSTON AND BRAGG.—Richmond Dec 14.—An important correspondence between the President and Gen. Joe. Johnston in relation to Bragg's removal was read in the House to-day by Mr. Swan, of Tennessee, from which it appears that on the 24th of November 1862, Johnston was ordered to the supreme command of the whole Western Department, with his headquarters at Chattanooga. On the 22d of January, 1863, the President ordered him to repair to Bragg's headquarters to decide upon the best measures of the service and to give advice. Johnston suggests the army and requests us the President the discharge are all in high spirits, ready for a fight, that his confidence is unbounded, and he thanks Bragg's operations evinced vigor and skill, and that it would be very unfortunate to remove him, as the best interests of the service require that he be retained, the operations of the army of the West involving great responsibility.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

The Richmond *Examiner* of Dec. 16, says:

"The astonishing propositions which have signalized the first days of the present session of Congress, for placing the entire population of the Confederate States in the field, leaving no producers of food to feed the enormous army so raised, and no taxpayers to find the money to furnish it, have created a considerable sensation. A feeling of despondency has been produced by them among reflective observers; not by the prospect of any cessation of national life and organization, which the realization of these wild projects would certainly cause—for no one can fail to see that there is no danger of realizing a patent impossibility;—but by the singular want of discernment which they indicate. It is difficult to believe that many members of Congress really intend the establishment of a dictatorship in this country, still less to make Mr. DAVIS dictator. Yet it requires but little reflection to perceive that such a law lately suggested in his message, a suggestion which members of Congress have taken in trust from it, is nothing more nor less than that.

An entire nation cannot remain in the field more than twenty four hours, under the penalty of death by starvation. A law requiring the whole population to take up arms and go into the army is a nullity. Few will dispute the remark, and the President blandly proposed that the power and discretion should be given him to "detail" such persons as he pleased to continue the pursuits of civil life. The relative numbers of those in the army and those out of it, might not be changed by a law of universal enrollment if accompanied by this provision. The sole difference between the present and prospective condition of the nation, would be the change of "details" for "exempts" One of these words designates persons who continue the work that must be done in war and peace, under the authority of a law; the other, those who go about their business because of the favor of the President and his officeholders, great and small. This is a proposition to give them despotic control over every individual in this country and to destroy every check upon their will. The parasites of power are pleased with it. There exists a small faction in this country who have long clamored for this measure, because they expect power, profit and revenge from it. But it is impossible to believe that those who have echoed this cry in some of the resolutions offered in Congress, intended to do so. A resolution of enquiry, fortunately, is not a law, and when the force of the measures suggested in the first has been examined, as it must do before it is fixed in the last, there will be little danger that Congress will stultify itself or sacrifice the cause by such insane steps as are now feared by many.

From the Raleigh Progress of the 18th:

Senator Wigfall was the father of the Conscript law, and the author of that infamous clause attached to it permitting the slave lords and speculators to buy out of the army, while the poor masses and non-slaveholders had to go in. Mr Wigfall was the pet, the confidential friend and spokesman of Mr Davis, and so we may infer that these measures were dictated by the Executive himself.

Mr. Wigfall told the country that a conscription of all men from 18 to 35 would give us an army of 750,000 men—sufficient to whip the Yankees and establish our independence, but after two years of toil and suffering we see the result. Our army, through mismanagement and imbecility, has dwindled down to less than one half the number that Mr. Wigfall promised us, while at least one half of the territory that we set out to defend has passed from our hands. Were Mr. Wigfall's calculations at fault, or have our means been misplaced and wasted? We know not, but we believe that the powers that rule at Richmond would squander the most ample means and wreck the best government on earth.

We know, however, that the Texas Senator passed his pet measure, and that all the men from 18 to 35 were conscripted, and that thereafter it was extended to 45, and yet the country is not saved, our independence is not achieved, and the enemy are not driven from our soil. Why is this? Senator Wigfall and Mr. Davis, his master, have had all they wanted or asked for. They have had men and money. They have impressed men and they have impressed property, and yet our cause is losing ground. How can the people longer trust those who have misled and deceived them? They have had what they wanted and accomplished nothing. Shall they have more?

Congress is again in session, and Mr. Wigfall as the champion of the Executive, comes forward with another pet scheme. He finds that the conscription from 18 to 45 will not save the country—that further bleeding is necessary—and offers a bill to put in the service all men, and boys, from 16 to 55, thus making the entire population subject to military law, and to consolidate the whole country into a military despotism. Are our people ready for it? We hope not. Once suffer all men from 16 to 55 to be enrolled in the Confederate service, and made subject to Confederate authority, and all personal liberty and all civil law is gone, and the whole have to bow to a military despotism. Will this people submit to such an infamous usurpation to satisfy the Senator from Texas, or those who control him? We hope not.

If a faithful execution of the conscript law, as it stands, will not enable us to maintain ourselves and achieve our independence, we are a whipped and subjugated people, and the war may as well stop. Mr. Wigfall told us the first conscription, from 18 to 35, would give us 750,000 men, and so it would had it been faithfully executed, but through favoritism corruption and bribery, commencing at Richmond and permeating all the departments of the army, scarcely half of the men embraced in the bill have been put in the field, and now the spokesman of those who are responsible to the to the country for this remissness—this neglect of duty and this insult to the rights of the masses—comes forward and asks for suckling babes and decrepid age to fill the places of those whose cowardice and infamous truckling have lost us half the Confederacy. Pass the bill proposed by Mr. Wigfall and his friends, to conscript everybody from 16 to 55, and a more complete or grinding military despotism will not exist upon earth. We want freedom, we want independence, we want liberty, but for God's sake, while fighting for these, do not fasten the chains of slavery upon us.

We are opposed to any extension of the conscription and to the forcing into the service those men who have furnished substitutes, according to the law, for if we cannot conquer a peace with the means that have already been given to the authorities we cannot do it at all. People must eat as well as fight, and if we withdraw the laboring force, who produce the bread, and put them in the army, every man of sense knows that both the army and the people must starve; and if this proposition of the Texas Senator be adopted we are a conquered, a ruined and subjugated people.

Our armies are brave and efficient, our people are patriotic and self-sacrificing, but we fear that the imbecility and indifference that prevails in the Confederate Congress, and the stubbornness, selfishness and corruption of those who administer the affairs of the government have well nigh wrecked the cause.

May they all be aroused to a sense of duty, justice and liberality before it is too late.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 14th says: "In the present condition of the country, which is already suffering from a deficiency of producers and manufacturers, the great difficulty being to feed and clothe those who are already in the army, it is impossible to conceive a madder project than to make soldiers of the entire population."

ORDERS FROM BUTLER.—Butler has issued orders from Norfolk, prohibiting, under penalty of fine or imprisonment, or both, the transfer of all property unless the person transfering has returned to his "allegiance" to the United States.

He has also issued an order providing for the enlistment of free colored troops in Virginia and North Carolina, and the care of their families. He says the recruitment of colored troops has become the settled policy of the government, and declares it to be the duty of every officer and private to aid in carrying out that purpose irrespective of personal predilection. Officers are forbidden to employ able bodied negroes as servants.

Western North Carolina.—The Asheville News of the 13th says:

"We are indebted to the courtesy of Col. Palmer, Post Commandant here, for information just received by courier, to the effect that a heavy cavalry force of the enemy had appeared in Cherokee and Clay counties, on our western border, committing many depredations, such as burning corn cribs and other houses, carrying off negroes, horses, mules, &c. The town of Murphey is reported burnt.

Col. Palmer is taking the proper steps to meet the case.

DIED:

In this place, on Sunday last, Mrs. CHARITY BENZIEN, aged about 65 years.

FOR SALE.

A NEW TWO-HORSE WAGON for sale.—Corn wanted in exchange. J. BONER.

INK AND BOTTLES.

WE can now supply the people with INK. We wish all the clean bottles, vials and ink-stands we can get, to put ink, &c., in.

E. L. HEGE.

Salem, Dec. 24, 1863. 34-4t.

BANK STOCK.

CAPE FEAR AND STATE BANK STOCK to exchange for Grain. Apply at this office.

FOR SALE.

A CARRIAGE—A BUGGY—A SADDLE AND BRIDLES.

Inquire at the POST OFFICE.

Nov. 19-tf.

War Tax!

I WILL attend at my office, at home on Monday the 11th and until Saturday the 16th January. At Winston, Monday and Tuesday, 18th & 19th Jan. At Walnut Cove, Wednesday the 20th January. At Danbury, Thursday and Friday 21st and 22nd Jan for the purpose of all concerned to register and pay their taxes. Wholesale and retail dealers of every description, Peddlers, Physicians, Surgeons, Lawyers, Distillers, Tobacconists, Dentists, Hotels, Taverns, Bankers, Bakers, Butchers, &c.

Also for the purpose of collecting such taxes as may then be due, on Cattle, Mules, Horses, Gross Sales and Income Tax, &c

All persons failing to attend, register and pay their taxes as the law directs, will be subject to the penalty imposed, and it will be enforced without regard to persons or property.

Any person, dealer or merchant, &c., can register at my office from the 1st to the 11th of Jan'y, 1864.

WILL. FLYNT.

dec. 17-3t.] War Tax Collector, 38th District.

NOTICE.

AS my wife Lucy has left me without a just cause, I forewarn all persons from harboring her, or trading with her on my account, as I will not be accountable for any debts she may contract.

WILLIAM MARSHALL.

Forsyth Co., N. C., Dec. 10, 1863.

FURS WANTED.

I WISH to buy all kinds of furs, for which I will pay the highest market price.

I will likewise exchange hats for wheat, corn, rye, hay, butter, lard, tallow, syrup, home-spun cloth of all kinds, cotton woolen or linen;—in fact almost all kinds of produce farmers may have.

THOS. J. BONER.

Nov. 25th, 1863. 29-tf.

$200 Reward!

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the 4th inst., my negro man ALFRED. He is of a dark copper color, about 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high, with his front teeth out, and about 38 or 40 years old. I will give the above reward for his delivery to me or confinement in prison so that I can get him.

T. L. MARTIN.

Huntsville, Yadkin Co., N. C., Nov. 7, 1863. 38-4t.

LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Another year of health and of sufficiently abundant harvests has passed. For these, and especially for the improved condition of our national affairs, our renewed and profoundest gratitude is due. We remain in peace and friendship with foreign powers. In common with other Western powers, our relations with Japan have been brought into serious jeopardy through the perverse opposition of the hereditary aristocracy of the empire of the enlightened and liberal policy of the Tycoon, designed to bring the country into the society of nations. It is hoped, although not with entire confidence, that these difficulties may be peacefully overcome. I ask your attention to the claim of the Minister residing there for the damages he sustained in the destruction by fire of the residence of the legation at Jeddo.

THE NEUTRALITY OF ENGLAND.

The efforts of disloyal citizens of the United States to involve us in foreign wars, to aid an inexcusable insurrection, have been unavailing. Her Britannic Majesty's Government, as was justly expected, have exercised their authority to prevent the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports.

THE NEUTRALITY OF FRANCE.

The Emperor of France has, by a like proceeding, promptly vindicated the neutrality which he proclaimed at the beginning of the contest. Questions of great intricacy and importance have arisen out of the blockade and other belligerent operations between the Government and several of the maritime powers they have been discussed, and, as far as was possible, accommodated in a spirit of frankness and national good will.

OUR PRIZE COURTS.

It is especially gratifying that our prize courts, by the impartiality of their adjudications, have commanded the respect and confidence of maritime powers.

SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

The supplemental treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of the African slave trade, made on the 17th day of February last, has been duly ratified and carried into execution. It is believed that, so far as American ports and American citizens are concerned, that inhuman and odious traffic has been brought to an end.

OUR RIGHTS IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

I shall submit for the consideration of the Senate a convention for the adjustment of the possessory claims in Washington Territory, arising out of the treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, and which have been the source of some disquiet among the citizens of that now rapidly improving part of the country.

SPAIN'S RIGHTS AROUND CUBA.

A novel and important question, involving the extent of the maritime jurisdiction of Spain in the waters which surround the island of Cuba, has been debated without reaching an agreement, and it is proposed, in an amicable spirit, to refer it to the arbitrament of a friendly power. A convention for that purpose will be submitted to the Senate.

THE SCHELDT DUES.

I have thought it proper, subject to the approval of the Senate, to concur with the interested commercial powers in an arrangement for the liquidation of the Scheldt dues, upon the principles which have been heretofore adopted in regard to the imposts upon navigation in the waters of Denmark.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHILE.

The long pending controversy between this Government and that of Chile touching the seizure at Setana, in Peru, by Chilean officers, of a large amount in treasure, belonging to citizens of the United States, has been brought to a close by the award of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, to whose arbitration the question was referred by the parties. The subject was thoroughly and patiently examined by that justly reputed potentate, and, although the sum awarded to the claimants may not have been as large as they expected, there is no reason to distrust the wisdom of His Majesty's decision. The decision was promptly complied with by Chile when intelligence in regard to it reached that country.

THE PERUVIAN CLAIMS.

The joint commission, under the act of the last session, for carrying into effect the convention with Peru on the subject of claims has been organized at Lima, and is engaged in the business.

THE NICARAGUA ROUTE.

Difficulties concerning interoceanic transit through Nicaragua are in course of amicable adjustment.

In conformity with principles set forth in my last annual message, I have received a representative from the United States of Columbia, and have accredited a minister to that republic.

THE RIGHTS OF ALIENS IN A CIVIL WAR.

Incidents occurring in the progress of our civil war have forced upon my attention the uncertain state of international questions touching the rights of foreigners in this country and of United States citizens abroad.

In regard to some governments, those rights are at least partially defined by treaties. In no instance, however, is it expressly stipulated that in the event of civil war a foreigner residing in this country, within the lines of the insurgents, is to be exempted from the rule which classes him as a belligerent, in whose behalf the government of his country cannot expect any privileges or immunities distinct from that character. I regret to say, however, that such claims have been put forward, and in some instances in behalf of foreigners who have lived in the United States the greater parts of their lives.

There is reason to believe that many persons, born in foreign countries, who have declared their intention to become citizens, or who have been fully naturalized, have evaded the military duty required of them by denying the fact, and thereby throwing upon the government the burden of proof. It has been found difficult in practice to overcome this